

N. Irisa
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REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claims 9-12 were allowed, and claims 1-8 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. In the present amendment, claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, but is not otherwise amended. The amendment is fully supported by the specification as originally filed.

Claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because of the term "resister" in claim 1, line 11. As recommended by the Examiner, "resister" has been replaced with "register," thereby correcting an inadvertent error. The specification has been amended on page 4 in a similar manner. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment. For example, as described on page 14, first full paragraph of the specification, host I/Fs 21a, 21b, and 21c include respective command reception **registers** 22a, 22b, and 22c "which hold a data transfer request sent from the host computers 1a, 1b, and 1c."

Regarding the reasons for allowance, it is noted that the data transfer apparatus is interposed between a plurality of host apparatuses which perform a data transfer "and peripheral apparatuses which receive transfer data from the host apparatuses and process the data" (see claims 1 and 9; emphasis added). In other words, the data transfer apparatus is interposed *between* a plurality of host apparatuses *and* peripheral apparatuses.

It is believed the application is in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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